

A Sad and Dreadful

ACCOUNT

OF THE

Self-Murder

OF

ROBERT LONG, alias BAKER,

SOME TIME

A Captain under the Late Duke of Monmouth in the Western Rebellion, who being Apprehended on Monday the 19th. of October, 1685. and committed to the County Goal of Newgate for High Treason, on the 20th. of October, Hanged himself in his Chamber in the Prison Yard: Together with the Remarkable Circumstances that attended it, &c.

STrange are the Effects of Despair, running Men headlong into Destruction many times, not only of the Body, but of the Heart; by prompting them (for the Escape of a present Calamity) to lay violent Hands upon themselves, and hazard thereby their own Eternal Welfare, as in many sad Examples in past Ages have appeared: Nor has this present Age been wanting to furnish the World with the like Rashness in Men, whose Understandings should have been their Guide, and have given them safer Directions to suffer patiently, those Afflictions and Punishments their Sins have brought upon them, as took up on them as the Scourge of their Impieties; and not to add Sin to Sin, by wilfully casting, as it were, that Talent of Life in the Face of their Creator, which he has given them, to improve to his Glory, and the Salvation of their own Souls. But so it is, when Men are blinded by Rashness, are regardless of their future State, the Enemy of Mankind takes the advantage to push them into Ruin, and heighten the Sense of their Guilt, into that of a desperate Despair; as appears most evident in the Rash and Unadvised Tragedy of the Unfortunate Person occasioning the Subject of these Pages; to whose rash and disastrous End I shall proceed.

Robert Long, otherwise Baker, formerly an Inn-keeper in the Town of Shaftsbury; where for some Years he lived very plentifully, and was possessed of a good Trade in the Way of his aforesaid Employment; but not being contented therewith, nor to live happy in his Station under the protection of his Lawful Prince, betook himself to Unlawful Practices, and

became one in the Late Rebellion in the West; and there, as a Captain, he Commanded a Party of the Rebels in Arms, headed by the Late Duke of Monmouth; and was actually in the Fight on the Moor near Bridgewater, where the Rebels, on the Sixth of July, were broken, and put to the Rout; he, at that time, escaping: But so it happened that, after absconding a while, he made for London, and there disguised himself as much as possible; but notwithstanding on the Nineteenth of this instant October, in the Strand, he was Seized and Charged as a Traytor, for being in the Rebellion, aforesaid, and taking a Command, and thereupon committed to the County Goal of Newgate as such; when being confined to a close Chamber in the Pres-yard of the Goal aforesaid, he became very Melancholly, his Countenance, at the same time, shewing a kind of Wildness, not being in the least free in Speech, but of a Reserved Temper, being often observed to Sigh and Groan to himself, little regarding Eating or Drinking, and in that condition he continued all ~~the~~ ^{the} 20th of October in the Evening, when one of the Keepers going, as is customary, to see what he wanted, and unlocking the Door, found it Barrocad'd within side; upon which he knocked aloud, but could not make him Reply, whereat after, divers Repetitions of knocking, he called some of his Fellows and forced open the Door; where, upon Entrance, they beheld the sad Effect of Despair.

The Person before mentioned, was ~~an~~ ^{James} Baker, hanged by a small Cord, on a Hook that supported the Tester of his Bed; the Cord, beside that part which went about his Neck, not exceeding sixteen Inches; his Feet bearing on the Ground, and his Neck hanging awry. Whereupon, they run to him, and supported him, in hopes to bring him to Life again; but, upon handling his Back, Ribs, Stomach, and the like, found he was quite dead; whenas they took him not down, but attended the Coming of the Coroner, who Summoned his Jury; and on Wednesday the 21st. of October, about One of the Clock, the Jury took a View of the Body, and examined the Witnesses, by whose Testimony it appearing, that no Person was with him Deced'd, but that he was locked in by himself, the Keeper or Turn-key of the Pres-Yard having been with him some Hours before, and found him Well, as to his Bodily Health; and that, upon his Return, he found the Circumstances as I have before related. Upon this, the Jurors withdrew to a House adjacent, and there brought it in, ~~that~~ ^{that} Through his Despair, occasioned by the Horror of his Guilt, he laid Violent Hands upon himself: All the Evidences inducing them so to believe, and nothing appearing that presented a Shadow of the contrary.

Which unadvised Rashness, we hope, will prove a Warning to others, in deterring them from contracting such Guilt, as the Horror thereof is capable of running them upon the Rock of Despair.

This may be Printed the 21. of October 1685. D. L. S.

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K
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